this year (January, 1990 to June, 1990) is as under :—

(Fig. in lakh MTs.)

Month	Wheat	Paddy	Tota
January, 1990	0.91	5.32	6.23
February, 1990 . . .	1.10	3.92	5.02
March, 1990	0.87	2.62	3.49
April, 1990	3.90	1.72	5.62
May, 1990	13.14	1.28	14.42
June, 1990	13.80	1.13	14.93

(b) As on 30-6-1990, the total covered storage capacity available with FCI from all sources was 179.24 lakhs tonnes.

(c) The FCI incurs transit and storage losses of foodgrains due to variety of reasons such as vagaries of weather, deterioration in quality during storage, moisture loss, losses due to multiple handling and movement etc. or due to theft and pilferage. The FCI is not maintaining any separate account of the losses of foodgrains on account of rodents. The storage and transit shortages in foodgrains during the years 1986-87 to 1988-89 were as follows :

Year	Qty. (in lakh M.T.)
1986-87	6.51
1987-88	7.01
1988-89	4.23

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The FCI has taken the following important steps to reduce storage and transit shortages :

(i) Strict enforcement of quality specifications relating to moisture during procurement of foodgrains;

(ii) Reduction in the quantum of foodgrains filled in each bag;

(iii) Installation of weigh-bridges in depots having capacity of 5000 tonnes or more;

(iv) Administrative measures such as tightening of security at depots, intensifying surprise checks, ensuring regular stock verifications etc;

(v) Augmentation of covered storage capacity;

(vi) Introduction of machine stitching of bags.

The FCI has prepared cost reduction plan with a view to reducing its operational costs. During the period from 1986-87 to 1989-90, the Corporation achieved savings in its operational cost to the extent of Rs. 667.65 crores.

New technology for fertilizer plants

3681. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are planning to bring down the minimum economic capacities for fertilizer plants to allow the use of new technology;

(b) if so, whether the new technology has recently been introduced in this sector; and

(c) if so, to what extent it would be helpful ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA) : (a) There is no proposal with the Government, at present, to bring down the minimum economic capacities for fertilizer plants to allow the use of new technology. It may, however, be

added that the Working Group on Fertilizers for the Eighth Plan, constituted by the Planning Commission, have recommended in their report that considering the magnitude of investment in setting up grass-root plants of 1350 tpd ammonia and 2200 tpd urea as also availability of reportedly equally energy and cost effective alternative technology, the additional capacity during the Eighth Plan and beyond need not be confined to large sized plants only. The Group has further recommended consideration of mini-sized (i.e. 400-600 tpd) ammonia plants as an alternative for additional capacity creation. Location-specific studies will have to be carried out by the entrepreneures themselves before bringing up proposals for setting up small sized plants for consideration of the Government.

Indo-Nepal rail link between Raxaul and Kathmandu

3682. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a high level delegation of railway board visited Nepal to negotiate the setting up of the first-ever Indo-Nepal rail link between Raxaul and Kathmandu;

(b) if so, whether any agreement has been reached;

(c) the details thereof;

(d) to what extent the tourist would be benefited with this ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Revamping of Fertilizer Units

3683. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have allowed revamping of two fertilizer units;

(b) if so, whether closure of the 4 ailing units of the Fertilizer Corporation of India has been withdrawn; and

(c) if so, what is the total amount approved for the revamping of the two fertilizer units ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA) : (a) to (c) Government have approved a proposal for revamping and technology upgradation of Gorakhpur Plant of FCI at a cost of Rs. 66.65 crores. FCI sent a proposal for Phase-I Rehabilitation of coal based Ramagundam Fertilizer Plant including 40 MW Captive Power Plant at a cost of Rs. 102.31 crores. However, no final decision has been taken. There is no proposal, at present, to close any of the four units of FCI.

Introduction of new train to meet tourist traffic

3684. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that more trains were introduced to meet the tourist traffic in the country;

(b) if so, the number of trains introduced;

(c) to what extent, the rush of the people could be managed by introduction of new trains; and

(d) whether the introduction of new trains would continue ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH : (a) Yes, Sir. Trains were introduced to meet the tourist traffic also.

(b) A total of 83 trains in 1988-89 and 80 trains in 1989-90 were introduced all over the country.

(c) This cannot be precisely quantified. However, it provided relief to clear the rush in proportion to the trains introduced.

(d) Introduction of new trains is a continuous process on Indian Railways subject to availability of resources.

Implementation of Nehru Rozgar Yojana in Madhya Pradesh

3685. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :